



Is the Bible for Real?

Week 3 of 6

SMS: (765) JESUS99 • email: questions@lafayettecc.org

SERIES • PRAY • INTRO: SINGLE MOST COMMON QUESTION PEOPLE HAVE

How do we know about God? Which religion is right?

What is the ultimate Spiritual Authority?

IN SOME WAYS THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT / SATISFYING ANSWERS COME WITH AUTHORITY

BIGGEST QUESTION: WHO IS MY AUTHORITY? // CHURCH, GOD, JESUS --> TODAY: BIBLE

Historic Christianity:

The **Bible** is our **Central** authority

IF YOU DON'T TRUST THIS BOOK, YOUR CLAIM OF BEING A CHRISTIAN IS IN DOUBT

I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:18-19

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 NLT

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:15-16

WILL I TRUST THE BIBLE?

WHY SHOULD I TRUST IT / HOW FAR SHOULD I TRUST IT?

Level 1: "I trust the **Translation**."

WITH ALL THE TRANSLATIONS... // SAMPLE 1

Four main types of translations:

- ▮ **Word** for **word** (literal).
- ▮ **Thought** for **thought** (equivalence).
- ▮ **Sense** for **sense** (paraphrase).
- ▮ Theological **agenda** (cult).

JOHN 1:1 // GENESIS 4:1 // PHILIPPIANS 3:8

The words we have today reliably represent the meaning of the text.

Level 2: "I trust the **Transmission**."

- ▮ Thousands of ancient **manuscripts**.
- ▮ NT is **95.98** % certain. OT is **90** % certain.
- ▮ No doctrine **hinges** on any **disputed** section.

Mark 16:9-20 // JOHN 7:53-8:11 // 1 JOHN 5:7-8

For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

1 John 5:7-8 NIV

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

1 John 5:7-8 KJV

The text we have today reliably represents the original.

COMMENT ON THE "GOSPELS" WRITTEN MUCH LATER & THE DA VINCI MISCONCEPTION

Level 3: "I trust the author's **Authority**."

Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16

The author's intent reliably represents the intent of God.

The author's words **inerrantly** represent the Word of God.

COMPLETELY VERIFIED // ALWAYS EFFECTIVE // PROPERLY INTERPRETED ?? --> CF "EAT CROW"

TAKE IT HOME

- ▮ God's Word **trumps** mine.
- ▮ God's Word contains **everything** I need.
- ▮ God's Word lived out brings **fulfillment**.
- ▮ God's Word spoken is **power**.

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10-11